

REMARKS OF WILLIAM J. CASEY
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

BEFORE

VETERANS OF OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES (VSS)

ABOARD THE INTREPID
NEW YORK CITY
THURSDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 1983

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SIR WILLIAM STEPHENSON, HE OF THE GOLDEN TROOPS, FONDLY KNOWN AS THE BARD OF ROCKEFELLER CENTER, MINISTER JERRY REGAN, AMBASSADOR GOTLIEB, ALL THE OTHER DISTINGUISHED GUESTS ON THIS SHIP, INCLUDING THE VETERANS OF OSS. THIS IS A HAPPY OCCASION, HONORING SIR WILLIAM WITH THE MEDAL WHICH COMMEMORATES HIS WARTIME PARTNER, BILL DONOVAN, AND GETTING TOGETHER WITH SO MANY FRIENDS AND FELLOW INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS WHO HAVE COME ACROSS FROM EUROPE AND DOWN FROM CANADA.

TODAY THE FREE WORLD HAS A HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED INTELLIGENCE APPARATUS TO WATCH FOR SIGNS OF DANGER. IT WAS NOT ALWAYS SO. WHEN HITLER WAS BUILDING HIS WAR MACHINE AND PLANNING HIS AGGRESSION, BILL STEPHENSON, ALONG WITH WINSTON CHURCHILL, WERE LONELY VOICES SOUNDING THE WARNING BELL IN ENGLAND AND BILL DONOVAN WAS A ONE-MAN CIA, ROAMING EUROPE FOR FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT.

SIR WILLIAM SAW THAT DONOVAN GOT A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE WHICH ENGLAND HAD DEVELOPED OVER FIVE CENTURIES AND OF THE WAY BRITAIN WAS NOURISHING RESISTANCE IN THE OCCUPIED NATIONS OF EUROPE PURSUANT TO WINSTON CHURCHILL'S DRAMATIC ORDER TO "SET EUROPE ABLAZE." DONOVAN IN TURN WAS TO TELL ROOSEVELT THAT INTELLIGENCE, PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AND IRREGULAR FORCES DRAWN FROM THE GREAT ETHNIC MELTING POT WHICH IS AMERICA WOULD BE THE SPEARHEAD TO LIBERATE OCCUPIED EUROPE. OUT OF THIS CAME THE OSS.

TODAY, OSS STANDS FOR OLD SOLDIERS SOCIETY. IN 1941, BILL DONOVAN ASSEMBLED WHAT HAD TO BE THE MOST DIVERSE AGGREGATION EVER ASSEMBLED OF SCHOLARS, SCIENTISTS, BANKERS AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS, TYCOONS, PSYCHOLOGISTS AND FOOTBALL STARS, CIRCUS MANAGERS AND CIRCUS FREAKS, SAFE CRACKERS, LOCK PICKERS AND PICKPOCKETS.

ON THIS DAIS AND SCATTERED AROUND THIS SHIP ARE THE REMNANTS OF THAT COLLECTION. WE HAVE TO ADMIT THIS WAS A BUNCH OF AMATEURS. IT WAS SIR WILLIAM WHO PROVIDED THE KNOW-HOW AND THE TRAINING WHICH MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO DEVELOP INTO AN EFFECTIVE INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. SIR WILLIAM BROUGHT EXPERIENCED INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS OVER FROM LONDON TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING THE STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES OF A PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION. EARLY RECRUITS TO THE OSS WERE TRAINED IN CAMPS WHICH BILL STEPHENSON HAD ESTABLISHED IN CANADA. HE THEN PROVIDED TRAINERS FOR OSS TO DEVELOP ITS OWN TRAINING SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES. GENERAL DONOVAN SAID IT ALL AFTER THE WAR. HE SAID: "BILL STEPHENSON TAUGHT US EVERYTHING WE EVER KNEW ABOUT FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS."

BUT THERE WAS STILL A LOT OF POLISHING TO DO. A BRITISH INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, WHO BECAME A RENOWNED WRITER AND PUNDIT, MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE, DESCRIBED IT VIVIDLY. HE SAID, "AH THOSE FIRST OSS ARRIVALS IN LONDON! HOW WELL I REMEMBER THEM, ARRIVING LIKE YOUNG GIRLS IN FLOWER STRAIGHT FROM A FINISHING SCHOOL, ALL FRESH AND INNOCENT, TO START WORK IN OUR FROWSTY OLD INTELLIGENCE BROTHEL."

THE SEASONING CAME WITH ON-THE-JOB TRAINING OBTAINED BY WORKING DAILY WITH PEOPLE LIKE THE COMRADES OF THOSE DAYS WHO CAME ACROSS THE ATLANTIC TO BE WITH US ON THIS OCCASION. HERE ON THE DAIS IS PIERRE FOO-KO WHO WAS THE FIRST OF GENERAL DE GAULLE'S FOLLOWERS TO PARACHUTE BACK INTO FRANCE TO BECOME A LEADER OF FRENCH RESISTANCE FORCES. I SEE DOWN THERE FLEMMING JUNCKER WHO BROUGHT THE DANISH RAILWAY SYSTEM TO A GRINDING HALT TO DELAY GERMAN TROOPS IN COMING DOWN FROM NORWAY TO REINFORCE HITLER IN THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE.

IT'S A SPECIAL PLEASURE TO HAVE VERA ATKINS HERE ON HER FIRST VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES. I CAN ONLY DESCRIBE HER SPECIAL WAR TIME BY SAYING THAT IN A VERY REAL SENSE SHE WAS THE HEART OF ALLIED SUPPORT TO FRENCH RESISTANCE. IT WAS SHE WHO SAW THAT EVERY AGENT WHO WENT INTO FRANCE TO ORGANIZE, TRAIN OR COMMUNICATE BACK TO LONDON WAS PREPARED, BRIEFED, ENCOURAGED, CALMED DOWN AND MADE TO UNDERSTAND THAT THOSE OF US WHO STOOD BEHIND THEM REALLY CARED AND COULD BE COUNTED ON. THERE CAME A TIME, AFTER THE LANDING IN NORMANDY, WHEN GENERAL EISENHOWER DECREED THAT A FRENCH GENERAL SHOULD HEAD UP A NEW ORGANIZATION TO CONTINUE SUPPORT OF FRENCH RESISTANCE FORCES. WE AMERICANS AND THE BRITISH, WHO WERE ENGAGED IN THIS WORK, WERE TO GO TO A NEW HEADQUARTERS AND BECOME PART OF THIS NEW OUTFIT. WE ALL WENT EXCEPT SQUADRON OFFICER ATKINS WHO ANNOUNCED THAT SHE HAD SENT HUNDREDS OF MEN AND WOMEN TO PARACHUTE INTO FRANCE FROM BRITISH SPECIAL FORCES HEADQUARTERS AT BAKER STREET AND THEY WOULD FIND HER THERE WHEN THEY RETURNED AND THEY DID UNTIL

FRANCE WAS LIBERATED. THEN, SHE WENT OVER TO FIND AND HELP THOSE WHO HAD SURVIVED THE RISKS THEY HAD TAKEN TO HELP BRITISH AND AMERICAN FORCES LAND AND FIGHT THEIR WAY THROUGH FRANCE--AND, INDEED, THE FAMILIES OF THOSE WHO HAD NOT SURVIVED.

SO, ALL OF US TONIGHT SALUTE YOU PIERRE AND YOU FLEMMING AND YOU VERA, AS WELL AS YOU SIR WILLIAM.

NOW, IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO INTRODUCE TO YOU A MAN WHO OCCUPIES A SPECIAL PLACE IN PRESIDENT REAGAN'S CABINET. AS COUNSELLOR TO THE PRESIDENT, ED MEESE HAS BROUGHT TO OUR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT THE SYSTEM OF CABINET GOVERNMENT, WHICH AS CHIEF OF STAFF TO GOVERNOR REAGAN HE HELPED DEVELOP IN CALIFORNIA. IN THIS CAPACITY ED SITS WITH THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, AS WELL AS THE CABINET. COORDINATING THE WORK OF THESE BODIES AND A WIDE RANGE OF CABINET COUNCILS, HE PROVIDES A CRITICAL LINK BETWEEN DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY. IT IS A SPECIAL PLEASURE FOR ME TO INTRODUCE TO YOU THE HONORABLE EDWIN MEESE III, MAN OF MANY PARTS AND OUTSTANDING QUALITIES, AS LAWYER, SCHOLAR, PUBLIC SERVANT AND SPLENDID COMPANION.